

Message Text

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51

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 TRSY-11 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 SAM-01 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1911

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

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VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: GERMAN PRESS REPORTS POSSIBLE TANK/TACNUC

TRADEOFF

1. MAIN EDITORIAL IN APRIL 19 FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU,
WRITTEN FROM GENEVA BY PIERRE SIMONITSCH, REFERS TO

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SECDEF'S REPORTED COMMENTS TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEES AS

PREPARING THE WAY FOR U.S./SOVIET TANK/TACNUC DEAL IN
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. RUNDSCHAU EDITORIAL EXCERPTS
FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WHAT THE POLITICANS UP TO NOW HAVE NOT ACHIEVED - A
WAY OF COPING WITH THE THREATENING SHORTAGE OF RAW
MATERIALS - SEEMS ABOUT TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A CUTBACK
IN ATOMIC ARMAMENT AND POSSIBLY AN EAST-WEST MODUS
VIVENDI IN EUROPE. U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES
SCHLESINGER HAS TOLD TWO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEES IN THE LAST
FEW DAYS THAT THE ATOMIC WARHEADS IN WESTERN EUROPE -
ESPECIALLY IN THE FRG - WHICH NOW TOTAL ABOUT 7,000 UNITS
WILL BE REDUCED. AS A REASON, SCHLESINGER SAYS THE
ATOMIC DEVICES COULD BE UTILIZED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES
AT HOME. SCHLESINGER'S IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PROMISES
FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES. IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT BLOC ABOUT A TROOP
REDUCTION (MBFR) THE EAST PERSISTENTLY DEMANDS THAT NOT
ONLY SHOULD THE U.S. REDUCE ITS TROOPS IN EUROPE, BUT IT
SHOULD DIMINISH ITS STORE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS AS WELL.
IN TURN, THE WEST DEMANDS THAT ALONG WITH A CUTBACK IN
SOVIET TROOPS IN THE GDR, IN POLAND AND IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SOVIETS SHOULD RELINQUISH THEIR
CURRENT SUPERIORITY AS REGARDS TANKS. ALL THIS SUGGESTS
A DEAL INVOLVING "TACTICAL ATOMIC WEAPONS IN EXCHANGE
FOR TANKS" - AND SCHLESINGER'S WORDS TO THE SENATE
MAY BE MEANT AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION FOR SUCH A
DEAL....ONLY THE TWO SUPER-POWERS CAN REACH A DECISION
IN THIS SPHERE....
END TEXT
CASH

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